

MISSION • VISION • VALUES • METHODS

This document outlines how the fundamentals of Young Life's camping strategy support the Mission, Vision, Values and Methods that we uphold. The entire camping experience serves as a tool that facilitates leader-centered ministry in the lives of kids & provides extraordinary environments where kids can encounter Jesus and grow in their faith.

MISSION

Introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith.

VISION

Together we have set our eyes Forward, joining in a movement that compels us to go deeper in our walk with Jesus while helping young people grow deeper in their faith; to welcome a diverse team of men and women to all levels of leadership; to innovate new ways to reach and teach; and to grow – building relationships with more young people all over the world.

Values

1. The Gospel – Living according to and communicating the whole gospel of Jesus.

We communicate the gospel in terms kids can understand and provide a framework for processing the message together and alone.

We proclaim the Person of Jesus Christ in every message and through everything we do. With a warm spirit of hospitality, we reflect Jesus Christ.

2. Scripture – Acting under the authority of Scripture and relying on the Holy Spirit to empower our ministry.

We proclaim God's love through the person of Jesus Christ, the reality of sin and its consequences, the work of Christ on the cross, the hope of the resurrection, Christ's offer of salvation, and God's call to discipleship for those who respond and choose to follow Him.

3. All Kids – Reaching adolescents of every ability and all economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds through innovative approaches.

4. Ecumenical – Collaborating with followers of Christ from various traditions and local churches worldwide.

5. Diversity – Welcoming those whom God calls to our mission – men and women of all ethnicities and abilities who are committed to the common purpose of introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith.

6. Health – Encouraging our staff and volunteers in their personal and spiritual health so we may minister out of a consistent and growing relationship with Christ and His followers.

We set physical and emotional boundaries that ensure the safety of each camper.

7. Stewardship – Observing the highest standards of stewardship of all the resources placed in our trust.

We provide an environment that reflects the glory of God and serves as a worthy setting for the gospel. This means excellence in everything, from food to flowers to facilities.

Methods

1. Praying for young people.

We begin, end and surround every camp with personal, private and corporate prayer behind the scenes. Since we are working with kids who may not know Jesus Christ, we exercise sensitivity and offer public prayers only when they are deemed appropriate by the staff and for the group.

2. Going where kids are and building personal relationships with them.

We clear away the noise, clutter and chaos from kids' lives to allow the gospel to enter.

We create safe and adventurous opportunities for leaders to build relationships with kids and build a platform for sharing the gospel.

3. Earning the right to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

We proclaim Christ through everything we say or do. With a warm spirit of hospitality, we reflect Jesus Christ.

We work hard to make club the best hour of the day. This includes the excellent use of music and humor as well as a well-prepared message to break down barriers, capture the hearts and minds of kids, and clearly communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ.

4. Providing fun, adventurous, life-changing and skill-building experiences.

We provide an environment that reflects the glory of God and serves as a worthy setting for the gospel. This means excellence in everything, from food to flowers to facilities.

We provide shared experiences for kids and leaders to bond, creating a safe & close community for kids to encounter Christ.

We involve kids daily in the exercise of adventure.

5. Inviting kids to personally respond to the good news and walking in friendship with them regardless of their response.

We communicate the gospel in terms kids can understand and provide a framework for processing the message together and alone. This includes

- *creating a cabin time setting that is private, kid-centered and safe,*
- *structuring the schedule so that it allows ample free time for kids and leaders to talk,*
- *providing opportunity during the week for kids to sit silently and consider the gospel message on their own.*

We provide a safe forum, free from public pressure or personal coercion, where kids can profess a public faith in Jesus Christ if they so choose.

We provide kids a clear and personal invitation to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. And, we will continue to invite and include them to 'come and see', regardless of their response.

6. Preparing kids for a lifelong relationship with Christ and a love for His Word, His mission & the local church.

We provide a setting where kids who have come to Christ can come together for encouragement and basic instruction in their new faith.

We set leaders up to start and build ongoing discipleship relationships with kids and point kids to the broader body of Christ, the church.

7. Working in community alongside like-minded adults (volunteer leaders, committee members, donors and staff).

We provide a support structure of staff and volunteers with clearly defined roles who have been trained with excellence to provide a clear picture of the sacrificial service of Christ and set leaders free to minister to kids.